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(54) Title: **HIV-1 gp120 V1/V2 DOMAIN EPITOPE CAPABLE OF GENERATING NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODIES**

**(57) Abstract**

The invention features a protein which includes a gp120 V1/V2 domain of an HIV-1 strain and not a gp120 V3 domain of an HIV-1 strain, which protein does not substantially bind CD4. The gp120 V1/V2 domain of the protein displays an epitope which is recognized by an antibody which neutralizes at least one HIV-1 primary isolate with a ND<sub>90</sub> of less than 100 µg/ml.

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